



WHAT TO DO IF YOUR CHILD IS A RUNAWAY

1. Request assistance for police or sheriff. Give detailed description of your child as to height, weight, hair and eye color, identifying marks or characteristics and clothing child was last seen wearing. Stay in touch with authorities.
2. Ask jurisdiction authorities to register data with the National Crime Information Center (NCIC). Although this is not a mandatory procedure in all states, most police departments will cooperate if urged to do so.
3. Contact the VANISHED CHILDREN'S ALLIANCE (800) VANISHED and other credible national not-for-profit organizations to report your child missing.
4. Collect recent photos of your child for use on flyers and posters to send to the above-mentioned organizations.
5. Assemble and have printed posters and flyers with photo, description, contact telephone number and/or address. Distribute posters and flyers to all appropriate locations. Police may assist you in this.
6. If your child has run away before, contact the person with whom he/she was found or search the location where your child was previously found.
7. Contact the child's friends and relatives for possible information concerning his/her whereabouts.
8. If the parents of the child are not living together, contact the other parents concerning the whereabouts of, or contacts with the child.
9. Contact the child's school if school is in session.
10. Check to see if the child took any possessions with him/her such as a doll, toy, pet, money or clothes. Check to see if the child has access to money in bank(s) and if any withdrawals have been made.
11. If the child has a particular boy/girl friend, contact him/her for information. (If the friend is also missing, obtain all pertinent information from his/her family and friends and make sure this information is disseminated along with all information about your own child. Encourage his/her family to report their child missing to law enforcement, the VANISHED CHILDREN'S ALLIANCE, and other credible not-for-profit organizations.)
12. If the child is old enough to drive and a vehicle was taken, obtain a detailed description of the vehicle (color, make and model, license plated number and state) to be disseminated with other information about the child.
13. If fingerprints of the child are available, make copies for use in an investigation.
14. Obtain any available dental charts for use in an investigation.
15. Provide a list of phone numbers to be called for information pertaining to the child.
16. Check area hospitals and morgues for unidentified children and bodies.
17. Contact the NATIONAL RUNAWAY SWITCHBOARD number at 1-800-621-4000 for any message which may have been left by the child. Also the NATIONAL RUNAWAYHOTLINE number is 1-800-231-6946.
18. If the child or anyone regarding your child calls collect, be sure to ask the operator for TIME, CHARGES AND HOLD.
19. Check past phone bills for any unusual long distance calls.